

Rogue River Courier

DAILY EDITION

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THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1917

WHOLE NUMBER 16

ELIHU ROOT TO HEAD RUSSIAN COMMISSION

FULL PERSONNEL OF THE BODY NOT YET ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT

ROOSEVELT'S FORMER PREMIER

Wilson Names One of His Bitterest Critics to Lead Mission to Slavic Nation

Washington, April 26.—Elihu Root today accepted the chairmanship of the American commission which is going to Russia.

Root conferred with President Wilson today for an hour as to the purpose of the commission and then talked with Secretary Lansing. He would not discuss the commission's plans—in fact, would say nothing whatever as to his connection with it preferring to let Secretary Lansing make any announcements to the public.

The full personnel of the commission which, in addition to Root, is to include railroad experts, financial authorities and two or three other prominent representatives of America's business and scientific life, will be announced very soon.

Realizing the need of immediately exerting assistance of all kinds to Russia, it is the purpose of the president to send the commission abroad as quickly as the business affairs of the members can be arranged.

Secrecy of the route taken by the commissioners will be maintained.

Root's selection and his acceptance was taken as the final sign of a complete American political unity for the war, Root having been one of President Wilson's bitterest critics and Roosevelt's former premier.

GARDEN PLANTING IS BEING URGED

Portland, April 26.—With the opening of headquarters in the Oregon building this morning, the executive committee in charge of the campaign to obtain co-operation between state and nation in farm and garden work began its activities today. The committee will devote most of its efforts at first to encourage the cultivation of vacant lots and backyards in Portland and the other cities of the state. Experts will be sent to every part of the state to advise the farmers and to encourage them to plant crops in every acre of tillable land.

"The people of Oregon have no idea how serious is the problem of producing the maximum quantity of food this year," said W. J. Kerr, president of Oregon Agricultural college, and chairman of the executive committee, today.

DIVINE SARAH MUST DIE ON FRENCH SOIL

New York, April 26.—"I love America, but not enough to die here. I must live to see France victorious, and once more visit my beloved Paris when the war cloud has disappeared."

Sarah Bernhardt, in substance, spoke these words to her physicians when they had almost despaired of her life at Mount Sinai hospital. The official bulletin today reported her condition favorable. She has been making steady progress. The strong will of the actress, expressed in her determination to return to a victorious France, sustained her and was responsible for her astounding display of resistance.

U. S. MAY NEED 5 MILLION MEN

Member of Senate Military Committee Says That Number of Soldiers May Be Required

Washington, April 26.—The United States may have to raise an army of 5,000,000 men before the war is over. This was the declaration late today made by Senator Myers, of Montana, of the senate military committee, during the fifth day of debate of the administration's conscription bill.

Myers, favoring the draft, said he believes fully this country will need this number of troops before the war is over.

"I am glad this is to be not merely a war on paper—or with our dollars only. Such a war would be un-American," he said.

NO REASON FOR THE HIGH PRICE OF FOOD

Washington, April 26.—Results of the first congressionally authorized and paid for price probe as a result of recent soaring prices throughout the nation, were reported today.

The conclusion reached is that "there is no just ground for such high prices of many products, as are demanded of the consumer at this time."

The report recommends there is "urgent need in this country for organization of comprehensive marketing machinery which will put producing and consuming communities in trading relations with each other and make possible sending of perishable products directly from the point of production to point of use."

Municipal wholesale markets are recommended. The probe was conducted in the nation's capital. Some sensational disclosures were laid before congress in the report, which says that similar conditions undoubtedly hold in other cities of the country.

Conditions unearthed here also may be taken as a criterion of what the federal trade commission may find in its nation-wide investigation. The probe found:

That reports of food shortage were misleading.

That prices in many cities "were unusually high."

That the poor have been compelled to resort to strictest economy to provide food.

That the sale of ordinary cuts of meats appears to have been discontinued.

That consumers are exhibiting more frugality than ever before; the falling off in garbage collections proves this.

That shipments of foodstuffs were abnormally held up and the food supply therefore abnormally depleted.

That the element of speculation in food products has been one of the potent factors in enormous increases in prices.

That shipments of foods to belligerent countries have not affected prices of potatoes, eggs and onions, but that prices on these commodities soared with prices of other foods.

That the food situation here is merely a part of the food situation of the rest of the country.

The probe reported that increased value of agricultural land, cost of distribution and "changed methods of living," undoubtedly has some effect on price increases.

"Suburban life," the report said, "for instance, calls for longer hauls for delivery. On the other hand, apartment house life calls for frequent small quantity sales with corresponding increase in frequency of deliveries."

CONGRESS SOON TO VOTE UPON A DRAFT BILL

CONSCRIPTION SEEMS CERTAIN TO WIN AFTER MANY DAYS OF ORATORY

HOUSE TO BALLOT TOMORROW

Senate Agrees to Take Final Action Some Time Before Midnight Saturday

Washington, April 26.—The house will act on the army bill tomorrow. Conscription seems certain to win.

The long drawn out debate on the question of raising two million men by draft or volunteering will end tonight.

This was decided today by unanimous consent, immediately after the house convened.

By the agreement, the house is to continue to talk as long as it can stand it today and this evening. Then tomorrow Chairman Dett, of the military committee, who opposes the president's draft plan, and Representative Kahn, ranking republican member of the same committee, who is leading the president's fight, will make concluding arguments.

The senate will vote late Saturday. House action speeded up the senate. The senate acted promptly after the house's action was reported, agreeing to vote some time before midnight Saturday.

Pyrotechnics started early in the house. Congressman Mason, demanding that Colonel Roosevelt be permitted to raise an army for immediate service in France, declared "the man in the White House has not the courage or political sagacity to permit Roosevelt to enlist for fear he will profit politically."

From floor and galleries instantly

(Continued on Page 2)

PROPAGANDA FOR GERMAN REPUBLIC

Washington, April 26.—What may prove to be important moves to sweep aside Hohenzollernism and replace it with a German republic, were reported officially to the state department today from several sources.

According to a message to the secretary of state from Minister Stovall at Berne, an open movement is on in Switzerland by a committee of Germans to spread the propaganda of republicanism and democracy.

Dr. Roese Meyer, former editor of the Berlin Morgen Post, leads the Switzerland propagandists, who already have established a paper, the Frie Zeitung, to further their attempts to spread the doctrine of a German republic in the fatherland.

From other sources this government learns that the German people are increasingly anxious for peace. Such a message was taken by a traveler, arriving in a neutral country from Germany to state department officials in the unnamed neutral nation. This government's officials so telegraphed the state department today. It was stated that "the strike of 250,000 laborers in Berlin shows the growth of the desire for peace."

Moreover, this traveler declared, Germany has reduced the bread rations from 1,900 to 1,500 grams a week. As a result of the "continual strike" at Bbling, the department of state was advised, the commander-in-chief ordered that all strikers would have to join the army unless they resumed work in the munitions factories.

FOOD DICTATOR OF THE WORLD IS PROBABLE

PROBLEM OF FEEDING THE PEOPLE IS BIG ISSUE OF WAR COUNCIL

H. HOOVER MAY HEAD MOVE

Inter-Ally Commission May Direct the Supplies From All Nations of the Earth

Washington, April 26.—That some one American—possibly Herbert Hoover, or Secretary of Labor Wilson—within next few months, will become food dictator of the world, was indicated by developments at the international war conference of the allies here today.

More and more the war council's proceeding are crystallizing into a monumental campaign to feed the allies. Finance and shipping problems are coming to be considered comparative collateral, though, of course vital.

It was taken for granted today that it will be the policy of the allies, after America has made her preliminary contributions to her fighting sister nations in men, money, food, shipping and other things, to entrust the United States with absolute control of certain phases of the war.

That food will be one of the problems left entirely in American hands is believed certain.

This will mean that one man, or small group of men, will be named by President Wilson absolutely to dominate the production and distribution of all food in the United States, England, France, Italy, Russia, Cuba, and the other allied countries.

It is deemed probable that this step will involve the formation of an inter-ally food commission, comprising a director-general of food for each nation with the American dictator as the head of the commission.

This, it was officially pointed out, has been the allies' method of handling all its problems. England dominates war finance. Other phases, which it is desired shall not be discussed as they are not generally known, are under the respective direction of some one or other of the other allies.

Domination of war divisions other than food, may be allotted to the United States, but food will be the most important.

The real crux of the conferences going on here today is the international reorganization of the war, since the United States is in, on the same principles that an army of fighters is employed; branch handling commissary department; another, mobilization and transportation, another, the collection and distribution of munitions and so on.

Premier Viviani, Marshal Joffre and Admiral Chocheprat called on President Wilson at the White House during the morning.

They were met by the president's aide and taken to the green parlor, whence they were conducted to the blue room and warmly greeted by the president.

The Frenchmen were with the president only a few minutes. No conference, such as occurred between the president and Balfour, of the British commission, took place. After greetings had been exchanged, Viviani left the capitol to call on Vice-President Marshall; and Joffre left on foot for the war department to talk with American army officers.

Chautauqua Meeting

A meeting of the signers to the Chautauqua pledge will be held tomorrow, Friday evening, at the Chamber of Commerce. A full attendance is desired.

MORE GERMANS ARE CAPTURED

French Army Takes 1,500 Prisoners in Single Swoop Around Ville aux Bois

With the French Armies in the Field, April 26.—Thirteen hundred German prisoners and 180 machine guns were captured in one swoop of French forces around Ville aux Bois, according to a complete tally given out at general headquarters today. The total of all captures in the fighting around Ville aux Bois was eleven cannon and 2,200 prisoners—including one entire Bavarian regiment, with all its officers, except the colonel. The French development occurred April 17, but until today the censor withheld details.

The French swept so suddenly around the Bois positions that the enemy imprisoned within were taken unawares. Just one solitary German evaded capture, and he bravely stuck behind until he could drag away his machine gun. If it had not been for the fact that the colonel of the Bavarian regiment enclosed by the French was back to the rear of the German lines in his quarters, he too, would have fallen prisoner. Not another of the captured Bavarian unit and they did their best to retake the wood—but without success.

WITHDRAW BLACKLIST OF AMERICAN FIRMS

London, April 26.—The foreign office announced this afternoon that the "blacklist" against American firms had been withdrawn.

The foreign office emphasizes that the blacklist remains operative against neutrals. The sole change is exemption of all American firms.

Raising of the blacklist will remove the only real issue that ever threatened ill feeling between England and the United States during the present war.

The blacklist covered 85 American firms. The blacklist was ordered by England in July 1916. It was directed at firms all over the world with whom British citizens were forbidden to trade.

On July 26 Acting Secretary of State Polk registered America's emphatic protest at this discrimination in a note addressed to Sir Edward Grey. The blacklist, this note said, "had been received with the most painful surprise" by the United States and the government was "contrained to regard it is inconsistent with true justice and sincere amity and impartial fairness which should characterize the dealings of friendly governments with one another."

In the interchange which followed, England refused to relax the blacklist on the American firms mentioned, and the matter remained still an issue.

SUBMARINE SINKS AMERICAN VESSEL

Washington, April 26.—The American schooner Percy Birdsall has been sunk by submarine gunfire, according to a state department announcement today. The crew was rescued by a patrol boat soon after the attack.

Nine or ten shots were fired, seven of which struck the vessel. Most hits were below the water line. Firing was without warning and continued while the crew took to the boats.

The Percy Birdsall was a wooden four-masted schooner of 1,128 tons, registered at Perth Amboy, N. J. She was owned by J. Holmes and was built in 1890.

PREPAREDNESS TRAIN COMING THIS EVENING

FIRST SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TONIGHT

THE EXHIBIT CAR WILL BE OPEN

Sections to Be Held Friday at Subjects of Food Production and Conservation

One of the potent forces in the preparedness campaign is that of the Southern Pacific company, under the direction of the Oregon Agricultural college, in the sending of the preparedness special through the country. This train with its corps of lecturers and demonstrators will arrive in Grants Pass this afternoon, and will remain over Saturday. Through the exhibits, lectures and demonstrations practical information as to yard and vacant lot farming, poultry keeping, home canning and home science will be disseminated and a great amount of good should result.

This, Thursday, evening there will be a session at the Chamber of Commerce assembly room, at which home canning and vegetable growing will be the topics discussed. The exhibit car, on the Southern Pacific tracks, will be open for inspection from 8:30 to 9:30 o'clock.

Friday the forenoon session will be held at the high school, and will include the topics of home canning, food preparation, poultry raising and vegetable growing. The hours will be from 9 till 10:30 o'clock. The exhibit car will be open from 1 till 11 o'clock.

The first session of the afternoon will be at the preparedness train, and the subject will be poultry raising; the hour 2 to 2:30 o'clock from 2:45 to 5:30 there will be a continuous session at the assembly room of the Chamber of Commerce, the subjects discussed and demonstrated being food preparation, vegetable growing and home canning. The exhibit car will be open from 1 till 5 o'clock.

STATEMENT IS DENIED

Washington, April 26.—Denial of the statement that France was American troops sent to the front immediately, was made here late today. He said no such statement had been made, and that any such reports were entirely unauthentic.

MAY SOON SETTLE HOME RULE QUESTION IN

London, April 26.—Announcement today that Premier Lloyd-George had postponed for a few days his statement on Irish home rule, promised this week, aroused hopes of complete settlement of the question. It was believed that Lloyd-George was making a final effort to reconcile the various Irish elements as a result of urgent representations from Lord Secretary Balfour, now in Washington.

Balfour was reported to have indicated to Lloyd-George that the American government and the American people favored home rule and that solidarity between the United States and Great Britain would be greatly enhanced by recognition of this sentiment here.

The London public was impressed today by a story in the Northern Times papers from America, quoting prominent Americans in favor of home rule for Ireland.